the end. of the year as per the statement of the Hdn'ble Minister for Communications at Bangalore;

(a) if so, how many new equipment are being added and what is the total cost of the new equipments ;

(d) how much funds for installing the new equipments have been released so far and what is the balance funds to be released to Karnataka Telecom Circle; and

(e) by when Grovernmen will release the balance Fund to complete the work

The MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION'S (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The total number of Wailing list in Kanataka as on 30.6.94 is 1,76,613.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (e) Rs. 308 crores has been releaser for Karnataka for carrying out capital works plaane-i during 1994-95. The additional amount required, if any, will be considered -at an appropriate time. However- additional equipment to be purchased on leasing basis will also be provided for this circle in order to liquidate tee waiting list.

Increase in Excise Duty on machinery

923. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR;
SHRIMATT VEENA, VERMA :
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINI*:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

with the Minister of FINANCE be pleaded- to refer to the answer to , Starred Question 181 given in- the Rajya-Sabha on 8th March, 1994 and state" - -

(a) what decision has since been taken on demands to issue a notification to waive the inadvertent in- crease in eixcise duty on machinery, plant and laboitetory equipments which treats material by condensing ! or cooling other than refrigeration and airconditioning machinery^ under the head 84.19, for the period February 28 to April 23, 1993 and whether such notification has since been issued; if not the reasons for the delay;

(b) the reason that the duty on these items was not reduced to 10 per cent as contemplated under the said head, in. the Memorandum appended to the Finance Act Bill/Act. 1993 but was restored to the Pre-budget level- of 15 per cent; and

(c) whether responsibility for the unintended increase from 15 per cent to HO per cent instead of reduction to 10 per cent under the said provisions lias been fixed; if so on whom and if not, the reasons thereor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE EST THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M! V- CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY):, (a) The matter is still under active consideration with ference to the existing level provisions under the ventral excise law.

(b) The memorandum explaining . the provisions in ,the Finiance Bill- 1993 refer to reduction in excise duty in specified capital goods falling| with in Chapters 84 85 and 90 of theCentral Excise Tariff, Since therewag no intention to raise the duty on the goods-' described in part fa) of this question, it was decided to- restore the pre-budget rate of 15. per cent on.these goods.

(c) The'"description of the goods was changed without any intention of changing the scope of the examption. The error- was entirely.due to . inadvesrtance. ' '